

Self-assessment questions for session 2

The following are intended as self-assessment questions for the ideas introduced in the second session of the course. These questions are for your own private use and do not form part of the assessment for this course.

You should attempt to answer all of the questions. There are no right and wrong answers; the objective of these questions is to get you to think about the issues rather than to provide a definitive solution.

1 Types of Information System

1.1 Classifying systems

Why do we need to classify information systems? In what way(s) could you classify the different types of information system you might find in a business? In what ways do the more recent types of information system differ from the 'classic' view of information systems?

1.2 Legacy systems

If you wish to replace a legacy system, does this raise different issues than if you want to acquire a completely new system? Is it possible to think of any system in isolation from existing systems?

2 Different ways to acquire an Information System

2.1 Different options

What are the advantages and disadvantages of building a system in comparison with the other options? Is open source software a low cost alternative to building a system from scratch? Can 'not acquiring an information system' be a valid option?

2.2 Building systems

How are the different types of models created when designing a system used? Do these models have any use outside the creation of the system itself? What is a systems design methodology and are different types of methodology better suited to different types of systems and / or applications?

3 The choices faced when acquiring an Information System

3.1 Business implications

Do information systems pose any particular problems in terms of the evaluation of their financial effects on a business? What are the *strategic* implications of the different options you looked at in question 2.1? In what sense are you using the term strategic when answering this question?

3.2 Social and ethical implications

What effects might information systems have people's working lives? Does the choice of which information system is selected have implications beyond the company in which it is used? Can business and strategic decisions be considered in isolation from social and ethical decisions?